

We claim:

1. An apparatus for use in tracking whether a tax has been paid for a closed container, comprising:
 - a radio frequency identification tag comprising a substrate and a radio
 - 5 frequency transceiver circuit adapted to transmit a signal upon receipt of a transmit command and mounted upon said substrate; and
 - a container, said radio frequency identification tag mounted on said container, said radio frequency identification tag containing information indicating that the tax for said container has been paid.
- 10 2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said information comprises a unique predetermined code.
3. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:
 - a cap for said container having a closed end and an open end, said radio
 - frequency identification tag mounted on an inner surface of said cap; and
 - 15 an engagement member interconnecting said substrate and said container such that removing said cap from said container results in the fracture of said substrate thereby causing said radio frequency identification tag to become permanently disabled.
4. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said radio frequency identification tag
- 20 further comprises an antenna having a fixed length mounted upon said substrate and connected to said radio frequency transceiver circuit and a first interconnection means on said substrate, said apparatus further comprising:
 - a cap for said container having a cylindrical portion, a closed end of said
 - cylindrical portion and an open end of said cylindrical portion, said radio
 - 25 frequency identification tag mounted on an inner surface of said cylindrical portion of said cap adjacent to said closed end such that said first connection means faces centrally inward; and

a second interconnection means connected to said container for engaging said first interconnection means when said cap is installed on said container such that removing said cap from said container will exert force on said substrate resulting in the fracture of said substrate thereby causing said radio frequency identification tag to become permanently disabled.

5. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said radio frequency identification tag further comprises an antenna having a fixed length mounted upon said substrate and connected to said radio frequency transceiver circuit and a protrusion affixed to said substrate, said apparatus further comprising:

10 a cap for said container having a cylindrical portion, a closed end of said cylindrical portion and an open end of said cylindrical portion, said radio frequency identification tag mounted on an inner surface of said cylindrical portion of said cap adjacent to said closed end such that said protrusion extends centrally inward; and

15 ratcheting means connected to said container for engaging said protrusion when said cap is installed on said container such that removing said cap from said container will exert force on said substrate resulting in the fracture of said substrate thereby causing said radio frequency identification tag to become permanently disabled

20 6. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said radio frequency identification tag further comprises an antenna having a fixed length mounted upon said substrate and connected to said radio frequency transceiver circuit and a slot in said substrate, said apparatus further comprising:

25 a cap for said container having a cylindrical portion, a closed end of said cylindrical portion and an open end of said cylindrical portion, said radio frequency identification tag mounted on an inner surface of said cylindrical portion of said cap adjacent to said closed end such that said slot faces centrally inward; and

ratcheting means connected to said container for engaging said slot when said cap is installed on said container such that removing said cap from said container will exert force on said substrate resulting in the fracture of said substrate thereby causing said radio frequency identification tag to become
5 permanently disabled

7. A radio frequency identification tag for use in tracking whether a tax has been paid for a closed container comprising:
a substrate and a radio frequency transceiver circuit adapted to transmit a signal upon receipt of a transmit command and mounted on said substrate, said
10 radio frequency identification tag containing information indicating that the tax for the container has been paid.